

ON THE REVIEWER'S TABLE

"The Collected Works of Ambrose Bierce."
In ten octavo volumes. The Neale Publishing Company, of New York and Washington, \$25 the set net.

It is said of Ambrose Bierce that "no other living author has been so much discussed. His name is not a household word among the readers of the six best sellers, nor is Ambrose Bierce studied in literary societies by young ladies. But the man does not live, from the humblest to the most exalted rank, from the most illiterate to the most erudite, that would not read time and again every line that Ambrose Bierce has written. For Bierce's appeal to men is greater and more nearly universal than that of any other writer of literature."

While there may be a quality in Mr. Bierce's writing which gives a certain reasonableness to this criticism, it would seem that a juster thing to say is that the humanity of Ambrose Bierce and the understanding attitude towards life which he assumes in his authorship gives his message to the world through it a certain weight with both men and women, those that agree with him and those who do not. Greatness in literature must be measured by what it gives, and gives to all, by its answer to the need of the whole, and not to a part.

Perceval Pollard, the brilliant writer of "The Day in Court," comments on Bierce by saying: "The greatest satirist since Swift, or Pope or Byron, has been fished in prose and verse, always the sinners rather than the sin. I began my review of him with mention of his concern for our language. I can close by repeating that no man in our time has done more for English than Ambrose Bierce." Then again, J. D. Chandler has put it: "If I were Santa Claus I'd put into the hands of every intelligent man or woman in the United States an edition of the collected works of Ambrose Bierce."

Stories of soldiers and civilians. This would be in the nature of an education to many who know only the current stuff that passes for literature. "The Collected Works of Ambrose Bierce" cover a wide field, invading the realms of romance, satire, poetry, tale, essay, criticism, history and even the realm of the epigram. Wherever in these realms quick observation and assimilation have seized upon material it has been transmitted through picturesque processes of thought into words for the grave and gay that go into the make-up of ten volumes.

Men and women who have themselves created literature have themselves created literature. Ambrose Bierce's place among American writers. His readers will pass judgment according to their ability in interpretation and according to what he has to say to each one. Some will find him too harsh, but he probably none will put down his books without having gained something that will stand them in good stead for the future. The edition is handsomely bound in gray and gold, with about 100,000 words to the volume, and in heavy and durable binding is a tribute to the author, whose life work it presents.

"I Fasten a Bracelet."
By David Potter, J. B. Lippincott, of Philadelphia. Frontispiece by Martin Johnson, \$1.25 net.

A novel of high-grade American life. Red Cedars, a Western country home amid the rolling Berkshire hills, serving as a background for the unraveling of a four years' mystery, and an adjustment of relations between a quartet of sweethearts to render it broadly entertaining.

The book is a disagreeable revelation. The men of the book that are prominent in it are a United States Senator, who was prevented from rectifying a great wrong by sudden death, and a business man of wealth and leisure, with whom Jennie comes to be such a comfortable habit that he is never satisfied when away from her.

And that is the pity of such a book. The scene of it is laid in the Middle West, partly in Chicago. There is no tragedy in it, very little romance. Just two people desiring to get out of life all the material pleasures, in a cheap, ordinary way, which it can afford. Just a man desiring to be well fed and warmed, to be left free to come and go as he will, and demand of a woman that she shall minister to his well being and please his desire for beauty, whenever his eyes design to rest upon her.

Just a woman, willing for the sake of escaping the hardships of life and of obtaining love at any cost, quietly accepting a position which she knows to be wrong, and of continuing in it against the opposition of those who have a right to cry out at her unbecomingly. Just a woman, whose whole nature turns toward the emotional and a complete understanding is arrived at between Schuyler and the lady of his love, De Trouville also inherits a title and finds an American girl to take back to France with him as his countess.

"The Fair Irish Maid."
By Justin Huntly McCarthy. Harper & Bros., of New York, \$1.50 net.

Ireland is truly the home of romance, as exemplified in "The Fair Irish Maid." Out of the mist that dreams are woven of, lying on the soft, wet grass of the Kerry headlands, staring out upon the sober grayness of the Atlantic, the Maid looks into the consciousness of the reader of Justin McCarthy's new novel.

The name of his heroine harmonizes with her surroundings, for she is an O'Hara of the ancient house of O'Hara, impoverished in her day to such an extent that she is dressed like a peasant and lives in a hut with her old nurse, through the courtesy of a landlord, the hesitates over turning her absolutely obedient.

Poor she certainly is, but Grania O'Hara is proud and passionately fond of her native land, and its people, believing in all its folk-lore and traditions, and seeing in her imagination its good or evil influence, their blessings or their curses. She is devoted to an Irish sweetheart, Dennis Trowen, who is as penniless as she is. But he is also proud and ambitious and hopes, through his art as a poet to make a name for Grania and himself. He has written a drama, which he calls "The Soul of Erin" and goes to London to try to have it produced on the stage. Being poor and unknown, he fails and is, after awhile, reduced to great want.

In the meantime Grania O'Hara has been enacting the role of Cinderella and passing from the extreme of poverty to the extreme of affluence with great rapidity. An exiled uncle, Phelim O'Hara, who has survived the misfortunes of the revolution of 1798, and his subsequent departure for New York, appears incidentally upon the scene and restores Grania to her rightful place in society.

The story hinges prettily upon Grania's capture of London folk by storm. Here she is given the name of "The Fair Maid of Perth," and here she finds poor uncle Dennis, who comes in the snow and storm to sit beneath the windows of her drawing room, and be brought into a haven of rest and happiness through Grania's efforts.

"77" Humphreys' Seventy-Seven Breaks up Grip and COLDS

Goneness. The first feeling of a Cold is one of goneness, lassitude, exhaustion and weakness, as if some serious illness was pending—

The use of "Seventy-seven" at this first feeling, before the Sneezing, Cough or Sore Throat appear, will stop further developments.

A small vial of pleasant pellets, fits the vest pocket. At drug stores, 25c or mailed.

Humphreys' Homeo. Medicine Co., Cor. William and Ann Streets, New York.

tional, who seems to make no effort at self-protection or self-control.

Just a man and woman without faith and without hope, and without the present what little that present has to offer, making no provision for a future that leaves them bankrupt when it comes.

For the man growing old prematurely, getting a little grayer as the years go by and then going partially out of life full of remorse over the doing of an injury, the consequences of which he must leave behind him without the power of reparation. Just a woman, out of sympathy with other women through her own decision, denied the pleasures which should be hers, having just the money on which she based her life to comfort her, and looking forward after a few years to absolute loneliness and lack of companionship.

For the woman, who is undoubtedly frank in what it tells, and its trivial record is calculated to, at least, make men and women think, and to long for something less sordid, healthier and saner in tendency and influence.

"California."
Its History and Romance. By John S. McGroarty. Grafton Publishing Company, Los Angeles, Cal. \$3.00.

Beginning with a chapter in which the physical beauty of California is described, the charm of its climate and the allurements of its scenery are portrayed, the book goes on to tell of the California legends and traditions, especially those associated with the Franciscan missions, founded in 1769 by Junipero Serra.

The history of Monterey, the first capital of California, is told in eloquent words. Its history is written that progress can never wholly forget from Monterey the charm that warms it or the things that make it holy. The sea will be there, and the sky, till God calls back the one and rolls up the other as a scroll. The hills cannot be leveled and leveled as a roof is leveled and no hand but God's can change the sweep of the white shore or the curve of the bay set deep with the caress of uplands and dim serranos. Nor shall the din of whistles and the clatter of wheels and beating hammer dull the ears that hear the voices of the past.

The Spanish era, when King's men ruled the State of California, is followed in this history by the Mexican era, when the great ranches between the Harbor of the Sun and the Valley and the Seven Moons were scenes of love and hate. This romantic period serves, according to the author, as a prelude to the establishing by Americans in California of a republic, prior to the supremacy of the Stars and Stripes, and the adventures of the gold fields; and the American conquest and the admission of California into the Union, and finally to the wonderful achievements which have rendered California famous from the date of its first settlement to the present time.

The book is beautifully written, the love of the writer that his native land being told in words that are precise to its exceeding fairness and reflect the author's power of thought and imagination. Into this history is woven everything that is calculated to instruct the mind and at the same time delight the artistic sense of the mind. Rich in poetic allusions, the work is calculated to attract all classes of readers, who will explore its pages with ever increasing interest and delight.

It has an appendix with full notes and handsome illustrations that render it fully and creditably complete. It is a splendid tribute to the ruling State of the Golden West, which is here immortalized.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.
Lucius Mallet, whose new novel, "Adrian Savage," was recently published.

ished, is the youngest daughter of Charles Kingsley, and has closely followed in the footsteps of her father. She was born, and now lives and works, in the spot made famous by him—"The Orchard," Eversley, on the outskirts of the old Windsor Forest, near Sandhurst, the English West Point. The Kingsleys have a close American connection, aside from the readers of Lucas Mallet's and Charles Kingsley's novels. A brother of the former, Maurice Kingsley, lived in this country most of his life, and died at New Rochelle last year.

"The Recording Angel."
Mrs. Corra Harris, whose latest book, "The Recording Angel," will be published by Doubleday, Page & Co., this spring returned from Europe on the Pannonia, of the Cunard Line, December 6, after having been abroad since mid-summer. A series of articles on European women, written by Mrs. Harris, are now appearing in the Saturday Evening Post. The scene of "The Recording Angel" is laid in Georgia, the home of Mrs. Harris and of several generations of her ancestors.

Mr. Dixon's New Book.
Following his remarkably successful play of last year, "The Sins of the Fathers," Thomas Dixon is now writing a novel under that title. Mr. Dixon has had a telling effect upon Southern communities where it has been produced. But the theme is so big that the author feels he has but scratched the surface in his drama, and consequently he has determined to write a novel where he can give his ideas wider scope and freer swing. That the novel will be a big seller it is easy to predict, for Mr. Dixon always manages to tell an entertaining story. His book will be brought out by D. Appleton & Co.

"Common Law" on the Stage.
Robert W. Chambers's new novel, "The Common Law," is to be dramatized, and admirers of Valerie West, the pretty artist's model heroine, will have an opportunity of seeing how convincing an adorable young person appears from behind the footlights. It is expected that the play will have its first performance in the early spring of next year.

Celtic Novelists of Modern School.
In the forefront of the modern school of Celtic novelists is George A. Birmingham. His novels are Irish through and through, but for him his countrymen have nothing but appreciation. They are all agreed that "Lairge's Love," "Spanish Gold" and "The Search Party" are stories which represent their national genius truly—such glad, laughing, and tender kindness could be found nowhere out of Ireland.

The Bergson Vogue.
A Guide to the Philosophy of Henri Bergson is being issued by the George H. Doran Company. Bergson is, perhaps, enjoying greater vogue just now than any philosopher or lecturer ever connected with the Sorbonne. One of the ablest critics in Great Britain, John H. Muller, has declared his "Creative Evolution" to be the best book of the year. Bergson is fortunate in his interpreter, for "The Philosophy of Bergson" is by A. D. Lindsay, one of the most brilliant of the younger Scotch philosophers. It gives a very thorough and comprehensive grasp of Bergson's system of thought.

"The Lonely Queen."
The George H. Doran Company will publish in January a novel by a new writer, H. C. Bailey, "The Lonely Queen." This has as its heroine Queen Elizabeth, and in the realism with which the subject is handled is altogether out of the run of the usual historic novel.

"The Baron's Heir."
Mrs. Alice Wilson Fox, who will be remembered as the author of "Hearts and Coronets," has written another story, entitled "The Baron's Heir." It is a tale of the days of Henry VIII, and the scene is laid in the town and country houses of Sir Thomas More when he was high in the favor of the King. Sir Thomas receives under his roof the child and heir of a certain nobleman of his acquaintance, and there are charming pictures of his own children and their little quest at their parents' expense, on their journeys, and as spectators of numerous sights and ceremonies, all of which give an insight into the manners and customs of the times.

"The Centaur."
Algernon Blackwood's new novel, "The Centaur," is a protest against the unrest and insincerity of modern life and a passionate plea for a simpler existence, lived close to nature. The main book adventure takes place in the Caucasus, and there are lovely passages descriptive of the sublimity of that region.

WEST POINT

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
West Point, Va., December 30.—In spite of the bad weather before and during Christmas the people had a good time. The days immediately preceding Christmas had been a perfect day for boys to their homes here. Washington and Lee University, Johns Hopkins, at Baltimore; the Medical College, at Richmond; Woman's College, at Richmond; and Harrisonburg and Farmville colleges and Randolph-Macon College at Lynchburg and Randolph-Macon College at Ashland, were represented by these home-comingers.

There were a great many visitors in town for the holidays with relatives. On Monday the young people gave a dance in the Masonic Hall auditorium. On Tuesday the Methodist Sunday school had its Christmas entertainment in the form of a Christmas tree, fine music and other interesting features.

Among the social features of the holidays was a luncheon given by the ladies of the town, in honor of her sister, Dr. May Parrish Jones, resident physician in Shorter Female College, Rome, Ga.; another sister, Mrs. George Ritchie, who is a student in honor of Dr. Jones on Wednesday evening.

Miss Emily Fuller entertained the younger set on Tuesday, and the Misses Lewis entertained Wednesday evening. Mrs. A. F. Hargrave entertained the Young Men's Club. Mrs. J. M. Thompson entertained the Young Men's Club. Mrs. Crosby Thompson held a party meeting for the Young Men's Club. The German at the Terminal Hotel on Friday night.

Miss Kate Howerton spent Christmas with her sister, Mrs. H. H. Howden, of Barton Heights, Richmond. Mrs. Willis, of Wilmington, N. C., spent the past month with her parents. She was joined here for the holidays by her husband. They left for Wilmington on Wednesday.

The Misses Lyman, of Richmond, spent the holidays in town. R. M. Nye is spending several days with his parents in Charles City.

DURHAM
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Durham, N. C., December 30.—Mrs. George W. Wattle entertained the Up-to-Date Literary Club Thursday afternoon in a delightful manner. In the absence of Mrs. Carr, president, Mrs. L. L. Morehead, vice-president, presided. The study of the Greek drama was continued, with Mrs. L. M. Jones, of Durham, and Mrs. E. C. Murray, of Durham, on the two companion plays of Euripides.

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Will Begin To-Morrow,

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Broken assortments and odd lots of this season's best merchandise will be placed on sale at an average of

HALF PRICE

Suits,	Dresses,	Coats,	Waists,
Furs,	Dress Goods,	Silks,	Millinery,
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The importance of this occasion will be fully appreciated by those who are familiar with the Mosby standard of quality and low, regular prices.

ripides. There were other essays of an interesting character, forming a delightful program. A six-course luncheon was served, in which Christmas played an important part in the scheme.

Miss Rosa Lorbacher entertained quite a number of her friends at a Christmas party Monday at her home on Morgan Street. Many interesting games were played.

Miss Ethel Herndon left Sunday for beautiful Coggin Hall, on the James River, where she will visit her friends of that place.

Captain and Mrs. E. J. Farish celebrated Christmas in the old-fashioned plantation style Monday at their country home, "Lochnoch," near their country home. They were so fortunate as to be present could easily have imagined that they had stepped back into ante-bellum days, when "Mama" and "Mistress" were the general dispensers of Christmas gifts. The farm hands came in for a liberal remembrance, and the children were given their share of the holiday season was the annual Christmas dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Farish.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Farish, of the custom of the drawing room, where the guests were very interested in the program, and the program has been unusually interesting. Mrs. E. C. Powe read a paper on "Phila—the Pearl of the Nile." There was a very interesting reading from the "Garden of Allah," by Mrs. M. H. Jones, and an informal talk on the "Bible" by several members. Enjoying Mrs. Robinson's hospitality were Mrs. V. S. Brown, Mrs. Frank Brown, Mrs. L. A. Carr, Mrs. W. A. Erwin, Mrs. R. L. Flowers, Mrs. H. A. Fouché, Mrs. Joseph Graham, Mrs. H. H. Hill, Mrs. M. H. Jones, Mrs. A. E. Lloyd, Mrs. Geo. L. Lyon, Mrs. S. H. Hill, Mrs. E. K. Powe, Mrs. C. W. Toms, Mrs. J. F. Why and Mrs. M. Deary.

The delight of the younger set was a seven-course dinner, given Thursday evening at the Commonwealth Club by Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Farrar, who were joined by their son and daughter, Frank L. Jr. and Miss Lillian, who are spending the holidays at home from school. There were nine soldiers, chosen by Mrs. F. L. Farrar, and Mrs. L. P. Hill. The dinner was followed by a theatre party.

left for their home in the northern part of the county, near Hill Grove, where they will reside.

Miss Augusta Gilley and Judson Motley were married at Marion Church Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock.

Miss Thomas, of the county, and Walter Gilley were married at the home of Rev. R. G. McLees, in North Chatham Sunday morning. Rev. Mr. McLees performed the ceremony in the presence of a few friends and relatives.

Dr. and Mrs. G. W. Cooke and Mrs. Annie Ramsey, of Danville, were guests of Mrs. A. D. Bennett, at Hotel Bennett Wednesday.

Misses Boaz and Bateman, of Danville, and Miss Alice McCall, of Durham, are visiting Miss L. L. Strawn, at the home of Mrs. W. C. Goolsby, of Lynchburg, and A. C. Goolsby, of Richmond, were guests of relatives this week.

Reverend and Mrs. A. A. Whitmore and daughter, Miss Nannie, were guests this week of Mrs. W. M. Tredway, Jr., Miss Florence Carter, of Altavista, spent part of the week with relatives.

C. A. Stutz is out after an illness of several weeks with fever.

BURKEVILLE

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Burkeville, Va., December 29.—William B. Agnew and bride, of Lawrenceville, Va., have been visiting at the home of Mrs. J. D. Hughes for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hughes, of Richmond, are with Mrs. J. P. Agnew.

Miss Mattie Foulke is at home for the holidays.

Maclean B. Leath and family, of Salisbury, Md., are with Mrs. M. M. Leath for the holidays.

Misses Grace Woodhouse and Helen Campbell, and Farrar, Shelton, Oudham, Souds, Howard Young, George Woodhouse, William Eldridge, John Hughes, John White, French Waters and Graham Campbell are home for the holidays from their respective schools.

The Misses Hughes entertained on "The Hill" last Tuesday evening. About thirty guests were present.

Ben May, Jr., of Texas, is with his sister, Mrs. C. B. Robertson.

Mrs. Thomas F. Johnson, of Anderson, W. Va., and Mrs. J. L. Johnson, are with Mrs. W. G. Bell for several weeks.

Robert Vizer is with his brother, J. H. Vizer, for the holidays.

E. P. Shelton is home from a three months' trip through Texas.

Howard Young and M. B. Leath were in Blacksburg, Thursday for the Young-McCormick wedding.

Mrs. Sellers entertained with her usual charm the young people of the town on Friday evening.

J. L. Bradshaw has returned from Lynchburg.

Mrs. G. C. Campbell was hostess at a very pretty luncheon on Wednesday in honor of Mrs. M. B. Leath, of Salisbury, Md.

CHATHAM

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Chatham, December 30.—Miss J. Pearl Worsham and Edgar W. Worsham were married at the home of Rev. W. D. Barr, in West Chatham, Tuesday morning. Rev. Mr. Barr performed the ceremony, which was witnessed by a small gathering of friends. Immediately following the ceremony they

PINEHURST

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Pinehurst, N. C., December 29.—Merry Christmas, indeed it was for the company, which gathered from all sections of the village on Monday for an old-time "Christmas tree," gathered much as children gather for an evening long to linger in cherished memories. No one was forgotten, for the dainty souvenirs included were for both young and old, their assignment by lot introducing a genuine element of mystery. Charles Todd Parks, of New York, was irresistible as Kris Kringle, graciously assisted by a committee, including Mrs. J. A. Gammon and Miss Wright, of Rockland, Me., and Miss Mary S. Hayes, of New Bedford, whom all credit for the affair was due.

Numerous dinners, which were spread for a close circle of intimate friends, including Mr. and Mrs. Allan Lord, of Washington; Mr. and Mrs. Justus Kenball, of Worcester; J. A. Gammon and J. C. Wilbur, of New York; Dr. Myron W. Marr, of Dorchester, and Miss Lucy K. Priest, of New Castle. For Monday night a New Year's collation is planned by the younger set.

Attention out of doors has centered in the annual holiday week golf tournament, quail shooting, tennis, riding and motoring, one perfect day after another rounding out the week. Of arrivals there have been many, the number who will welcome the New Year exceeding all previous records. In arrivals already booked for the Carolina opening on Saturday morning, January 6.

Give Her a HOOSIER and She'll be Happy in the New Year

The best way to show your regard for her is to give her relief from the kitchen drudgery. There's no reason why she should wear herself out walking from kitchen to pantry—from pantry to table—from table to cupboard—when a Hoosier brings every kitchen necessity within arm's reach.

See how easily she can do her cooking with the Hoosier. Everything is compactly arranged. Flours, spices, sugar, bread, cereals, tea and coffee, cutlery, table linen, pots and pans, rolling pin, recipes, "want list"—ALL RIGHT BEFORE HER, A VERITABLE AUTOMATIC SERVANT.

The Hoosier Special Saves Miles of Steps for Tired Feet.

ALL YOU PAY NOW IS JUST \$1

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BERRYVILLE
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Berryville, Va., December 30.—Mr. and Mrs. Horace Smith, of Washington, D. C., and Mr. and Mrs. Chas. McGuire, of Hoboken, N. J., are guests at the home of Hon. and Mrs. Marshall McGuire, of Brandywine, W.

The STOMACH not always the STOMACH
What you fear is "stomach trouble" is often due to other organs, and hence purely stomach remedies have done you no good.
The Reason Why

STOMAX

cures all sorts of indigestion troubles. Is that it? It treats the whole digestive process—not merely the stomach. It is prepared by a regular physician of very high standing in Europe.
A spoonful in water after meals has cured the most baffling and distressing cases of dyspepsia.
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